

SEPT

1944



LEMONS INC JOURNAL

EDITORIAL:

We are indebted to Sam Drysdale for the linocut design on the cover of this issue of the Journal. This should encourage the latent artistic talents among members and we can expect soon to be able to present a different cover on each issue of the Journal.

The Annual Dance will be held this year in the Prince of Wales Halls on FRIDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER, from 7-30 p.m. till midnight.

Tickets this year are 5/6d each and may be obtained from the Dance Committee. We hope that many of the members in the Services and out of town will be present.

All notices for the Journal should be sent to the Editor, H. GRANT, 12, CLINCART ROAD, GLASGOW, S.2.

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CLUB MEETINGS:

At the September Club Meeting two applications for membership were accepted and we have pleasure in welcoming Ronnie Young and Dave Essen to the Club.

The Annual Dance was discussed and a Committee elected to make the necessary arrangements. Unfortunately, the Prince of Wales was booked for every Saturday and the date had to be changed to a Friday.

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CLUB NOTES:

Since the second issue of the Journal the Editor has received letters from the following members of the Forces :-

Bill Bolton, Alex. Bulloch, Sam Drysdale, Norrie Guy, Bill Henderson, Johnnie Jack and Bill Walker.

Unfortunately there is not enough space to publish these letters in full but those who were present at the September Meeting had an opportunity of reading them.

Bill Bolton who is now in France confesses that this is hardly the type of "return visit" he expected to pay when he was there with the 'bus in 1939.

Alex. Bulloch, now in Italy, has managed on one or two occasions to get a bit of scrambling, both in Africa and in Italy. Two of the expeditions consisted of a battle against thick scrub to the summit. The third was the ascent of a barren, rock-strewn hill which rose some 2,000 feet above a plateau already 3,600 feet above sea level. As Alex. had a six mile walk to reach the foot of this hill we agree with his opinion that he had achieved something when he reached the summit.

CLUB NOTES (Contd)

Sam Drysdale's letter was very short and to the effect that he was determined to get into print. The Cover of this Journal is the result of Sam's determination.

According to Norrie Guy, who is also in France, the Journal is just what the doctor ordered for that "browned-off" feeling. Norrie, who is a Lieutenant with an anti-aircraft unit, has his quarters in a cottage tent complete with camp bed and other such luxuries but says he would gladly change the lot for a doss in Glencoe.

Bill Henderson, stationed at Hull, was unfortunate last year in breaking his right arm twice in the same place. Bill is anxious to try it out on the hills on his next leave and hopes to manage a visit to Achray or Arrochar.

Johnnie Jack, who recalls happy memories of "The Misty Isle", is keenly awaiting the account of the holidays in Skye. Johnnie still finds a use where he is stationed for the time-honoured "thumb" method of travel. The experience gained in attending meets in the old days seems to be standing him in good stead now.

A short note comes from Bill Walker in Hants in which he bemoans the flatness of the countryside. Apparently the only hills around are those that Bill trips over in the black-out.

These "Lonesome Lomonds", as Alex. Bulloch describes them, send greetings to all members of the Club and express pleasure that the Club is carrying on so well in war-time.

WEEK-ENDS:

THE COBBLER.

The Cobbler still retains its evergreen popularity with the Club and A. Kay and A. Hutchison, in particular, seem to be making it a regular haunt.

On Saturday, 29th July, having travelled up by the early train, these two members, together with some friends, found time for a climb and chose Jean Direct. This party still vividly recall the sensations they experienced while, with their clothes flapping about them in the strong wind, they delicately traversed the narrow ledges of this exposed climb. The following day they did the Recess Route and finished it off with the ascent of the Ramshead Wall. On the same day, R. Hutchison, with his wife and youngster, and J. Shanks and his wife completed the round of climbs on Narnain.

The next week-end found Archie and Sandy again scratching on the Cobbler Face, this time on Blondin's Corner, Right Angle Direct and the Ramshead Gully, all first-class climbs.

THE COBBLER (Contd)

Unable to stay away, these enthusiasts were back again with A. Slack on Saturday, 2nd September, and after a late start they climbed the Cave Route on Central Buttress before making their way to the summit to be rewarded with a grand sunset and some really fine views of the surrounding peaks. Despite a cold wind that was blowing on the Sunday, a reminder of snow and ice to come, the party made the ascent of the North Rib on the North Peak. An attempt was also made on the North West Crack on Jean but was completed only with the aid of the rope from above.

We are reminded of the tragedy that befell J. Harvey and A. Kay on a recent week-end at Arrochar. Arriving at the Shire Bridge they dumped their packs underneath, well away from the river, in order to return to the village - for some reason or other! While they were safely in shelter, there was a terrific cloudburst and when the heavens cleared they hurried back to collect their packs. We leave you to imagine the language and their feelings when they returned to see their packs swirling round and round in an eddy of the river which had risen in their absence. There's a moral to this story somewhere and perhaps some of our brighter members may be able to find it.

LADHAR BHEINN (The Forked Mountain)

This mountain stands between Loch Nevis and Loch Hourn in Knoydart.

A party consisting of W. Russell, R. Hutchison and J. Shanks crossed the Mam Barrisdale from Inverie on Loch Nevis on Tuesday, 11th July, and the same evening reconnoitred the approaches to Ladhar Bheinn. Wednesday morning being wet, the ascent was postponed and, together with Mrs. Hutchison, Mrs. Shanks, and R. Hutchison, Jr., the three men spent an enjoyable afternoon and evening at Barrisdale Bay on Loch Hourn.

Thursday came wetter than ever, but, in desperation at 4-10 p.m. a belated start was made by the three men. Mist was down to sea level, so this was a map and compass expedition. Climbing steeply on vegetation and rock to Stob A Chorcaill on the Aonach Sgoilte Ridge, they turned North West to the main ridge of Ladhar Bheinn and finally reached the summit after negotiating some subsidiary tops. A sharp turn North East took the party along to Stob Coire Odhair, another top on a fine narrow ridge which slopes steeply on both sides. A descent was made into the Coire Dourcaillo, a magnificent double corrie of great depth with steep walls and gullies. (See S.M.C. Guide)

The party reach camp about 11-15 p.m. thoroughly wet, but happy. Great praise is given by the party to their navigator, Wm. Russell, for his uncanny skill in a world of mist.

SKYE.

The Summer Holidays this year saw most of the members who could make the trip, back, in Skye after a long break from these wonderful hills. All the parties had much better weather than is usually associated with Skye.

The first contingent consisted of D. McGovern, T. McKee, A. Kay, A. Hutchison, D. Esson (one of the new members) and P. McGeoch. The weather during the first part of the holiday was definitely hostile and most of the party will remember for a long time the first day spent on the Cioch, a miserable wet day with a bitter wind which, as Peter relates, made the goose pimples stand out like Seracs on an ice-field despite more than winter clothing.

As if to compensate for this, the party enjoyed brilliant weather for the latter part of their holiday - long days of sun and blue skies bringing out the wonderful colours of mountain and sea which can be found only in the Western Isles in mid-summer.

The party made trips to Rhum and Eigg by Motor-boat. The return journey from Rhum is worthy of note inasmuch as it consisted of five and a half hours of wallowing about in dense mist with peregrinations to the Point of Sleat, round the coast-line of Loch Slapin and Loch Scavaig between the isle of Soay and Skye and eventually into Loch Brittle. The members relate how the boatmen produced a small pocket compass and placed it on top of the engine. Due consideration was given to the erratic action of the compass, after which, with the same lofty contempt which some of us show for this instrument, they pocketed it and continued on their way.

Undaunted by this experience, the last of the party to leave Skye returned to Mallaig from Glen Brittle by motor-boat. Fortunately the weather was at its best and the trip is considered one of the finest experienced.

J. Harvey was also in Skye this year for the summer break. With a few friends he camped at Loch Slapin and climbed Clach Glas by the long ridge running up the east face, then on to the bealach and up a few pitches, including a 60 ft. chimney to the summit of Blaven.

Owing to the mist a descent by the same route had to be made. They next trekked over to Camasunary where they again found good camping spots, continuing round the coast to Loch Coruisk via the "Bad Step" which Harvey says "with a 70 lb. pack takes a wee bit of care."

The camping spots at Coruisk were all either too boggy or too stony but there were ample compensations in the grand scenery, the lovely bays of Loch Scavaig for swimming and the abundance of fire-wood. They spent much of their time climbing the neighbouring hills, meeting Sandy Hutchison on one occasion on Sgurr Dubh Beag. Sandy, who had missed the motor-boat back to Glen Brittle spent the night with this party before returning by the coast route the following day.

The party then continued over Druim Hain to Sligachan where they climbed Sgurr nan Gilleann.

Harvey, with his ever-roving eye for "new ground" had chosen this unusual approach by the east to the Cuillins, with a view to picking up as much information about this district for future reference and also as a complete change from the usual Glen Brittle approach.

The last few days of his holiday were spent in the Inverie district in Knoydart, beside Loch an Dubh Lochain. An attempt on Ladhar Bheinn was thwarted by foul weather and heavy mist.

Harvey returns with plenty of information which will, no doubt, be of use to members on future occasions.

The third and last party to visit Skye consisted of H. & F. Grant, A. Slack and a friend. On the Sunday following their arrival at Glen Brittle Hostel the party was up early and, with all the enthusiasm that usually attends a holiday in Skye, dashed up Corrie na Banachdich. Roped up in two parties and followed by the inevitable Skye midges, the party ascended the Window Buttress and continued along the ridge to Sgurr Dearg. Here the party sunbathed and admired the wonderful effects of sun and mist before ascending the Inaccessible Pinnacle. The descent by way of the loose ridge of An Stac and the grand scree run down to Coire Lagan rounded off the first day's climbing. On two occasions during the ascent of Sgurr Dearg the party was rewarded with marvellous glimpses of the Brocken Spectre.

The following day the party tackled the Cioch Direct which proved quite strenuous. The top of the Cioch being an ideal spot for sunbathing and for viewing Coire Lagan, the party decided to call it a day and settled down to enjoy the burning sun.

Tuesday, by common consent, was to be a rest day so the party went round with other members of the Hostel to Loch Coruisk by motorboat. Unfortunately, someone brought a rope - "Just in case" - and at 3 o'clock in the afternoon the Club Members, accompanied by Ronnie Young, started up the slabs of Sgurr Dubh Beag. This gives excellent scrambling from the shores of Coruisk right to the summit, 2,420 ft. After some difficulty with the route the party continued over Sgurr Dubh Mor and Sgurr Dhu na da Bheinn to the Thearlaich Dhu Gap. After negotiating the Gap the party descended the Alasdair Stone Shoot to Coirre Lagan.

Wednesday was an off-day for F. & H. Grant but Alf. Slack, enthusiastic as ever, accompanied by Ronnie Young and a friend covered the three peaks of Sgurr A' Mhadaidh.

Thursday saw the party once more in Coire Lagan. Alf Slack and friend decided to try Abraham's Climb on Sgurr Alasdair while F. & H. Grant and a friend went on to Collie's Climb. Both of these climbs proved very disappointing, the rock being very loose. The Guide Book mentions the fine exposure on these climbs but this was practically nullified by a dense mist and the party had great difficulty in even seeing each other. The ladies of the party descended the Alasdair Stone Shoot while A. Slack and H. Grant continued over Sgurr Thearlaich and Sgurr Mhic Coinnich, descending by the An Stac screes.

The Window Buttress was again visited by F. & H. Grant on Friday. This was a day of magnificent visibility with the Outer Isles seeming only a stone's throw away. By-passing the Inaccessible, they carried on to the summit of Sgurr Mhic Coinnich, returning once again by the An Stac Screes and the now well-worn path from Coire Lagan. Meantime Alf Slack and friend, accompanied by Ronnie Young, were reconnoitring for the best camp site in Coire na Creiche where they were joined late that night by F. & H. Grant.

With the first light of dawn the party were hounded on to the hills by clouds of voracious midges. By different routes, the parties reached the summit of Bidein Druim nan Ramh, then carried on over An Caisteal and Sgurr na Bhairnich, both of which afforded excellent scrambling. At this point F. & H. Grant, not relishing the long slog up Bruach na Frithe, descended to the Coire while the more energetic lot carried on to the summit of this peak.

A. Slack and friend braved the midges for another night and completed the ridge to Sgurr nan Gillean, including a particularly interesting climb on the Bhasteir Tooth. H. Grant and R. Young occupied their Sunday with a leisurely ascent of the Cioch West Route, leaving F. Grant to nurse her gabbro-grooved fingers.

The party spent Monday, the last day of fine weather, by visiting Rhum, where they spent most of the day watching the antics of a dozen seals off the shore.

On Tuesday A. Slack and friend completed the Median Route under miserable conditions and the following day, in equally dirty weather, F. & H. Grant intending to do the Direct Route on Sgumain, finished up on the shorter Cioch West Route instead.

The weather having now completely broken, H. & F. Grant left Glen Brittle on the Friday to enjoy a day or two in Morar while A. Slack and friend managed another day's scrambling in Coir' a' Ghrunnda before they too quit what could now truly be called "The Misty Isle."

LOCH LOMOND.

John, Jennie and Dorothy Nimlin spent the summer break on Loch Lomond. They covered around 150 miles in the "Swan" - a tight little rowing boat supplied by old Macfarlane of Balmaha.

No mountains were climbed, but much time was spent in contemplation and in thought-projection amid their peaks and crags. This type of climbing leaves one still fresh after a long day's contemplation, and saves much wear and tear of climbing-boots.

REPORTED MISSING:

We regret to announce that Bill Conn, who will be better remembered by the older members of the Club, has been "reported missing, presumed killed" while on a bombing raid on Norway.

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